

TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Sara Kyle, Chairman
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REGULATORY AUTH.

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60 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

September 29, 2000

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

VIA FACSIMILE AND HAND-DELIVERY

Mr. Charles L. Howorth, Jr.
Regulatory Vice President
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
333 Commerce Street #2104
Nashville, TN 37201-3300

RE: BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Tariff to Reduce Grouping Rates in Rate Group 5
and Implement a 3 % Late Payment Charge
Docket No. 00-00041

Dear Mr. Howorth:

It has come to the attention of the Authority that current bills to residential customers of BellSouth contain a 3.0 % late charge on all of the balance that remains unpaid as of the date stated in the bill. This letter will serve as a reminder to BellSouth that the earlier decision of the Authority in the above-referenced docket was vacated and the late charge tariff is not in effect. Further, at the September 26, 2000 Authority Conference, the late charge tariff was suspended for sixty (60) days. Without a tariff in effect, BellSouth is not entitled to bill for or collect the proposed late charge from its customers.

This matter is similar to the circumstances surrounding the earlier late charge tariff proposed in Docket No. 99-00574. In that case BellSouth placed a notice to its customers on the customers' bills that a late charge would be forthcoming. This notice appeared on customers' bills before the Authority had acted on the tariff. The Authority considered BellSouth's actions in that matter premature and directed BellSouth to notify customers that the late charge was pending before the Authority.

Likewise, BellSouth must not bill or collect late charges from customers while the tariff in this docket is currently under consideration.

Please respond to this letter no later than Tuesday, October 3, 2000.

Sincerely,

K. David Waddell
Executive Secretary

cc: L. Vincent Williams, Esq.
Consumer Advocate Division

POSTED
10-3-00

Charles L. Howorth, Jr.

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cc: Guy M. Hicks, Esq.
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.